(d) The details regarding the offtake of rice and wheat from 1995-96 to 2000-2001 (upto February, 2001) arc as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)
(Provisional)

Year	Rice	Wheat	Total
1995-96	93.32	51.59	144.91
1996-97	110.14	83.70	193.84
1997-98	97.65	69.38	167.03
1998-99	106.21	78.23	184.44
1999-2000	109.71	55.73	165.44
2000-2001 (upto Feb.)	70.64	35.48	106.12

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

† 2919. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial on the announcement made by Government on 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana* for poorest among poor on the 77th birthday of Prime Minister, published on page 6th of the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated 17th January, 2001; and

(b) if so. Government's reaction thereto and what facilities Government intend to provide to the public through this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The editorial deals with Antyodaya Anna Yojana launched by Prime Minister on 25.12.2000, besides impact of increase in prices of

† Origioal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

foodgrains effected from budget (2000-2001) on Public Distribution System (PDS), large stock of foodgrains in Central Pool and ever increasing storage cost and deteriorating quality of foodgrains in the FCI godowns.

The Central Issue Prices (CIP) for BPL families for wheat and rice were raised in order to link the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) with the CIP. In order to better targetise the food subsidy, the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families has been doubled from 10 Kg. to 20 Kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The Government has also initiated various steps to increase the offtake of foodgrains from the Central Pool.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) contemplates identification of one crore 'poorest of the poor' families who are not able to purchase foodgrains even at BPL rates around the year. The objective of the scheme is to provide them with foodgrains @25 Kg. per family per month at highly subsidised rates — Rs. 2 a Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a Kg for rice. The States/UTs have been requested to identify the Antyodaya families from amongst the number of BPL families estimated for each State/UT.

Keeping in view the extremely poor condition of the Antyodaya families, the Government of India has suggested to the State Governments/UT Administrations to ensure that the end retail price is retained at Rs. 2 a Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a Kg. for rice.

Basic Principle of Antyodaya Scheme

2920. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basic principle of the Antyodaya Scheme;

(b) whether there is any codified principle for giving benefit under the Scheme;

(c) whether the State Governments on its own can identify and give benefits to any person as per their wish; and